

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 07079 091022Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 953

S E C R E T NAIROBI 7079

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR MARSHALL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FORG, PSDC, KE

SUBJ: PLANNED ARRIVAL OF P-3 AIRCRAFT AND OF FRIGATE

REF: STATE 169766

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENTAIL PERMSEC KARIITHI, WHO IS POINT OF CONTACT DESIGNATED BY KENYATTA, TO INFORM HIM OF DECISION TO POSITION A P-3 AIRCRAFT IN NAIROBI AND A FRIGATE IN MOMBASA. ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING WERE DEFENSE PERMSEC KIEREINI AND DCM LINDSTROM.

2. KARIITHI AND KIEREINI PROMISED TO EXPEDITE NECESSARY AIRCRAFT AND SHIP CLEARANCES BY HANDLING PERSONALLY. WE WILL ADVISE APPROPRIATE COMMANDS AS SOON AS CLEARANCES ARE OBTAINED.

3. I ALSO ADVISED KARIITHI OF CONTENT OF PARA 2 OF REFTTEL WHICH HE PROMISED TO CONVEY IMMEDIATELY TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA. HE AND KIEREINI MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THIS ASSISTANCDE AS WELL AS OF OUR RAPID ACTION OF P-3 AND FRIGATE.

4. GOK HAS NO NEW INTELLIGENCE BEYOND THAT REPORTED YES-TERDAY ON PRESENCE OF LIBYAN AIRCRAFT IN UGANDA EXCEPT THAT THESE AIRCRAFT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LOCATED AT

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NAKASONGOLA AIRPORT WHICH IS ABOUT 70 MILES NORTH OF

KAMPALA. KARIITHI SAID CONSTRUCTION ON THIS AIRPORT HAD BEGUN BY ISRAELIS AND LATER CONTINUED BY SOVIETS.

5. KARIITHI THEN INFORMED US THAT GOK HAD "TESTED" PRESIDENT AMIN YESTERDAY BY STOPPING ALL RAIL TRAFFIC TO UGANDA FOR A PERIOD OF 15 HOURS. RESULT WAS TOUGH TELEGRAM FROM AMIN TO KENYATTA, WHICH HE SHOWED US, WARNING OF "FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES" IF KENYA CONTINUES TO INTERRUPT TRANSIT RAIL TRAFFIC. AMIN POINTED OUT THAT INTERRUPTION OF TRANSIT RAIL TRAFFIC FROM MOMBASA WOULD ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SUCH AS RWANDA AND ZAIRE.

6. KARIITHI ALSO COMMENTED ON DECISION, ANNOUNCED IN NAIROBI PRESS TODAY, OF KENYA REGION OF EAST AFRICAN RAILWAYS TO BEGIN REQUIRING CASH PAYMENT IN KENYAN SHILLINGS FOR ALL RAIL FREIGHT CHARGES INCURRED BY OTHER COUNTRIES SHIPPING THEIR GOODS ACROSS KENYA. PRINCIPAL IMPACT WILL BE ON UGANDA WHICH FORMERLY WAS ABLE TO DELAY PAYMENT OF THESE CHARGES FOR LONG PERIODS. WHILE THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN IN MILL FOR LONG TIME FOR PURELY ECONOMIC REASONS, KARIITHI THOUGHT THAT ITS IMPLEMENTATION AT THIS TIME WILL PROBABLY BE REGARDED BY AMIN AS ADDITIONAL POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ACTION BY KENYA.

7. KARIITHI THEN ASKED WHETHER EGYPT WOULD BE LIKELY TO INTERVENE MILITARILY ON SIDE OF UGANDA DESPITE POOR RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT. I SAID I WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSESS LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH ACTION BY EGYPT. IF DEPT HAS INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE ON THIS ISSUE, WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO PASS SUBSTANCE TO KARIITHI.
MARSHALL

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